

I Commerce and Industry Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.
Maple Syrup Industry.
50 gallon barrels, but most of what was sold locally was put up in pint,
quarts, half gallon and gallon cans all of which brought \$ 2.00 per gallon.

In 1940 they made 500 gallon and in the season of 41 they made
between 900 and 1000 gallon a part of this syrup was made into fancy pack-
age sugar by using small molds of maple leaf and rose design these boxes
are put on the market for sale on special occasions namely birthday and gi-
ft boxes for which they receive 80 cents per pound, this is very high grade
light colored very fine grain and of excellent flavor for which the touri-
st trade is very fond and according to Mrs Coyner they hope to build up a
trade on this fancy package sugar (or candy) .Both 1940 and 41 were bad ye-
ars as the season was very short .

Mr. Coyner employs 15 men steady but at times during a heavy run
he had as high as 30 men gathering water, cutting wood and firing the furnace.
They are very much interested in the maple syrup and sugar industry and hope
to be able to produce in good years from 3 to 5,000 gallons then they hope to
be able to compete with Vermont known as the Maple sugar state as we here in
Pocahontas County according to government officials have ideal trees ideal
elevation and in fact all it takes to produce maple syrup of high quality in
sufficient quantity to impress out of state buyers and consumers so there is
no reason why the Maple sugar industry should not become the leading industry

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in many sections of Pocahontas County.

Some other camps of worthy notice is the W.G McKeever camp on Sw-ago Creek they usually make from 1 to 200 gallons they use a pan and sell the syrup locally and to people passing through the county, another camp of considerable size is the C.W Kennison camp just out of Hillsboro on the lobelia road they have a small evaporator and usually make around 500 gallons sold locally, the income derived from the sale of maple syrup and ^{sugar} ~~syrup~~ means a great deal to the farmers of Pocahontas County in the way of extra income. However, many of the smaller camps have been cut down and put into lumber that is greatly in demand at this particular time, most of the sugar maple trees cut now show the marks of being tapped years and years ago by our forefathers.

Tradition has it that the Indians found out about the syrup from sugar water by chopping notches in sugar trees letting it freeze the water of no syrup content freezing solid and what did not freeze was maple syrup so this is the way of making syrup without boiling but made by freezing. if this is true, syrup was made by the Indians several hundred years ago.

A by product of sugar water is sugar tree beer and vinegar both were made by the first settlers of Pocahontas County the writer having seen both made by the McKeever's at Duckeye, as they are people that try to produce

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their living on the farm and come as near doing so as any farm the writer has ever visited in his many years of contact work. As the pioneer of Pocahontas County had to depend on maple syrup and sugar for sweetening therefore it had its place with the early settlers, as they often times traded maple sugar to the merchant for coffee and other necessary articles that the pioneer did not produce therefore it took the place of money and helped with the exchange of goods. Many of my informants say the day of buckwheat cakes and tree syrup were days never to be forgotten, and that the syrup helped to make up their daily diet which consisted principally of sweeten corn pone, strong coffee, bacon and syrup.

Information---Mrs. Ligon Coyner. Cloverlick.W.Va.

W.G McKeever. Buckeye.W.Va.

C.W Price Marlinton. W.Va.

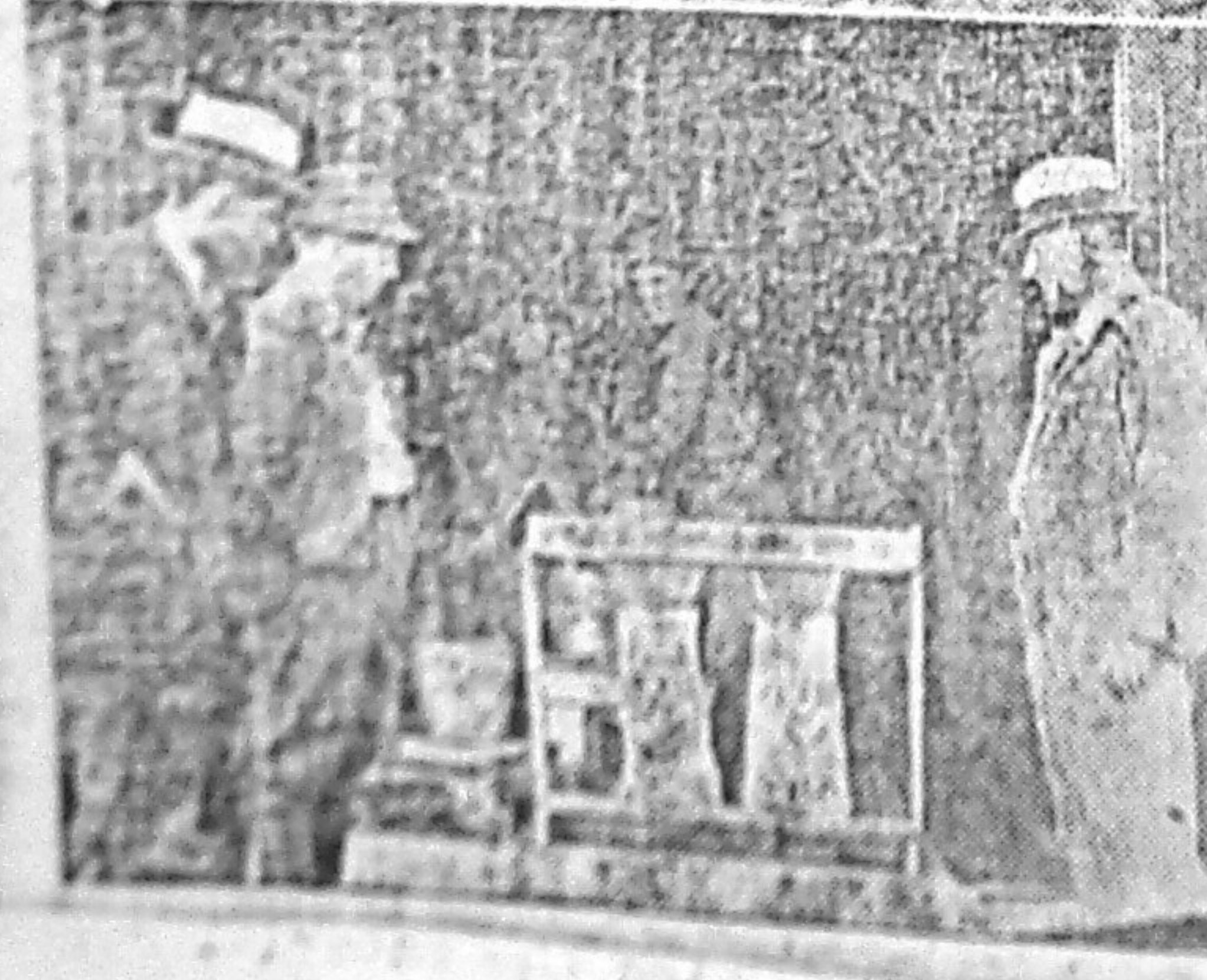
J.O Morrison. " "

Nancy A McNeill. Buckeye.W.Va.

Pacahontas Chapter 7



Efficient Production
And Wise Marketing
Boost Potato Profits



— Washington Journal
11/12/40

